

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 20, 2011
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: Monterey Bay Aquarium

BILL NUMBER: AB 337
AUTHOR: W. Monning

BILL SUMMARY: Ocean Protection Council: Sustainable Seafood

Existing law requires the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to develop and implement a voluntary sustainable seafood program. This bill also would declare that actions taken by the OPC in implementing the program are not regulations.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The OPC has not provided a fiscal estimate of the bill. However, it appears the bill could result in savings because it would reduce rulemaking workload associated with the seafood program. The savings are unknown at this time.

COMMENTS

We are neutral on the bill because it would eliminate the redundancy of existing law and reduce rulemaking workload associated with the OPC's seafood program.

Existing law requires the OPC to develop and implement a voluntary sustainable seafood program which includes the following components:

- A protocol to guide entities on how to be independently certified to internationally accepted standards for sustainable seafood.
- A marketing assistance program for California caught seafood certification.
- A competitive grant and loan program for assisting California fisheries in qualifying for certification.
- Label designs to be used for California caught sustainable seafood.

Existing law also requires the OPC to develop and adopt the components of the seafood program in public meetings. Furthermore, existing law requires regulations adopted by state agencies to be adopted in accordance with the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA). The APA process could take up to a year because of the public review and comment requirements. Declaring the actions taken by the OPC in implementing the program are not regulations would eliminate the APA review requirement. Consequently, it would simplify the OPC's implementation process.

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)								
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP								Fund
Type		RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code	
3760/Coast Conserv		SO	No	----- See Fiscal Summary -----						6076	
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>										
6076	Ocean Protection Trust Fund, California										

Analyst/Principal (0633) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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